

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0218

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PGOV PBOR ECON FR MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - FEBRUARY 24 - SUMMARY

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0184 (DTG 170830Z FEB 78)
(B) PORT LOUIS A-15, FEB. 24, 1978

1. WHEN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP ABROAD
ON FEBRUARY 18, HE WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY 200 OF HIS
CONSTITUENTS DEMONSTRATING THEIR "SOLIDARITY." THE DISSIDENT
"YOUNG TURKS" OF HIS LABOR PARTY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON HIS
RETURN WHICH ALSO PLEDGED THEIR LOYALTY TO RAMGOOLAM, BUT SAID
THEY WERE OPPOSED TO OUTDATED PRACTICES WHICH BROUGHT DISCREDIT
UPON THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY. THEY REPEATED THEIR THREAT
TO TAKE ACTION, OF AN UNSPECIFIED NATURE, IF NO POSITIVE STEPS
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ARE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. THEY LATER BOYCOTTED A
MEETING OF THE LABOR PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CALLED BY THE
P.M. TO DISCUSS THEIR CRITICISMS. RAMGOOLAM FINALLY
AGREED TO MEET WITH THE "YOUNG TURKS" FOR A PRIVATE
DISCUSSION IN HIS OFFICE FEB. 25.

2. THE OPPOSITION MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) STAGED

A DEMONSTRATION ON FEBRUARY 20 AGAINST HOUSING MINISTER AND MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) STALWART, ELIEZER FRANCOIS, CLAIMING THAT HE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST CERTAIN POPULATION GROUPS. FRANCOIS ATTACKED THE POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR ALLOWING THE MMM DEMONSTRATION TO OCCUR SINCE HIS PLANNED RALLY IN THE MMM-CONTROLLED PORT AREA HAD BEEN BANNED. MMM LEADER PAUL BERENGER CRITICIZED RAMGOOLAM IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFHAND MANNER IN DEALING WITH FRANCE'S RECENT ACTION OF EXTENDING A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND TROMELIN ISLAND.

3. AT A TRADE UNION SEMINAR, BERENGER MADE DIRE PREDICTIONS FOR THE HEALTH OF THE MAURITIAN ECONOMY BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGETARY DEFICIT WILL CLIMB TO 400 MILLION RUPEES THIS YEAR, REVENUES WILL DECLINE, AND UNEMPLOYMENT WILL BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM. KEELEY

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